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Interview with Katherine Moore

By Vivian Andrist

In Eastham, Massachusetts

May 23, 1989

VA: We're with Katherine Moore in her home in Eastham off Old County Road and this is May 23, 1989. This is done for the Oral History Project of the Eastham Historical Society. We're going to be talking about your family and your growing up in Cambridge. What are your thoughts?

KM: I was born in Prince Edward Island, but my father and mother came with my older brothers to Cambridge when I was two years old. From there on I lived in Cambridge, until later on in my life.

VA: Did you go to school there? Through high school and everything?

KM: No. I went to elementary school in Cambridge until I was a senior in high school. As a senior in high school-- my oldest brother had bought a place in South Milford, Mass. and from there

I went to Mendon High School. So I graduated from Mendon High School after being there about four months or so. My Cambridge high school years were in Cambridge High and Latin School.

VA: And then did you go on to school or did you work?

KM: I was a good student in school and an opening in a small South Hopedale school building came up and the superintendent asked me to be an assistant for a Miss Nina Burr, who was a college graduate and was teaching there. So that's what I did.

VA: What were you assisting in?

KM: In teaching elementary school subjects of the first six grades. We had a one-room school, but the girls' dressing room was used as a sort of small classroom, and I'd take a class out there. Real cold days, when it would be too cold out there, I'd stay in the big room. There was a mingling of classes in a way. I think some of the older classes enjoyed listening to the little classes and perhaps they picked up something they'd missed. Perhaps, too, the youngest pupils had picked up some information while listening in on the older classes.

VA: Did you have a favorite subject to teach?

KM: Well, reading I suppose, connected with English. And I

liked math too, just simple math in the lower grades.

VA: Let's go back a minute and talk about your growing up in Cambridge. Tell me about your mother, what kind of girl she was.

KM: I didn't know much about my mother's life when she was a girl. A few times my mother and I sailed on a steamer from Boston to Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, to visit my grandmother and my uncles and cousins in the West River area of the Island. There are no steamers to the Island now. Go by plane or by train and ferry. At present a bridge is on the drawing boards.

She was considerably older when I came along. I was the youngest in the family and she'd been married before, so she had a son by an early marriage, who was my half-brother, with whom I lived part of the time. My father seemed older than the parents of the other kids I knew. His name was Hugh Beaton. My mother was Sarah.

When Sarah first came from P.E.I. to Boston, she worked as a helper in the Home for Little Wanderers in Boston.

VA: What did he do?

KM: My father, when he first came to Cambridge, worked on the construction of the Boston subway, and later he worked for a company down near Magazine Beach, called the Woven Hose Rubber Company. Later he worked for the Dover Stamping Company, which

made metal covers for barrels. Also made man-hole covers.

VA: And he was of Scottish descent?

KM: They were both born on Prince Edward Island, but their parents had been Scottish descent. My father's father was from the Isle of Skye.

VA: Did you ever go over there to look up family?

KM: No. I never got to Scotland.

VA: Tell me now, you were assisting the teacher, and how long did that last?

KM: My total service in Hopedale was seven years. The senior teacher left. Miss Burr, that I had taught with, left to become the postmaster of Mendon. After she left the teaching I became the principal teacher. This was without a normal school education. It was a small school. Here's where Verena Daley came in. She was my assistant.

VA: I didn't know that! So you've known Verena for--

KM: I've known Verena for almost eighty years, I guess. I was speaking to Verena the other day. In Hopedale one of the big executives of the Draper Company was on the School Committee.

He was the chairman of the School Committee, and we had everything in that school, a small school. Everything new that came out in the field of elementary education. We had a piano and we had a music teacher come in and a drawing teacher. Everything but the physical ed teacher. We never had a physical ed teacher come in. But it was a country school, you know. There was a pond out back. We'd go skating.

VA: Sounds like the little schoolhouse over here. Was it about the same period of time too?

KM: Yes. From what I hear, the little Hopedale school was much like the Eastham school at that time, way back in the "Roaring Twenties".

VA: So then you stayed on teaching, and did you get married right after that?

KM: No. I married quite late. My father died and we left the Mendon-Hopedale area. I came up to Cambridge to live with my half-brother. That was during the last years of the First World War and Cambridge was full of war activities, soldiers and sailors, and Harvard was the training corps for the Army, and the women of the Navy, the WAVES, were just getting started then. And the WACs for the Army. This would be the time of the Great War of 1914 to 1918.

VA: Did you take any part in it?

KM: No, I had no active part in it. I went to work for the Carter's Ink Company in Cambridge. We bought war bonds, took part in money-raising events, did without things we would like to have had.

VA: What did you do at the Carter's Ink Company?

KM: I was in the accounting department. And when I think of the work I did in that! I made out the payroll checks for all of the company except the factory workers. And I made the deposits for the bank and I worked for the credit department too, checking the credit manager's submission of bills and looking them up in Dunn & Bradstreet. Computers were years in the future.

VA: How long were you there?

KM: I was there about eight years. During the years I worked at the Carter's Ink Company I took typewriting courses at Fisher Business School at the school's first classrooms in Central Square, Cambridge.

VA: And then went to another job or what?

KM: No. By that time teachers' salaries were coming along. You must understand that I worked for Hopedale for just a few dollars

a month. But it was enjoyable and a nice place to be. By that time salaries were coming along for teachers, so I applied for a job as a teacher, and my first job was in Danvers, Mass. I taught junior high school grades there.

And then I thought, well, if I'm going to stay in teaching, I'd better get some more education. So in 1930 I applied to Fitchburg Normal School for admittance to get a diploma. So I was in the last class of the Fitchburg Normal School. Then it became-- in '31 it became Fitchburg State College, which it is today. In other words, I got the so-called two-year diploma that Fitchburg Normal had been giving. During vacations from teaching, I had taken a few courses at Hyannis Normal Summer School, also at Harvard University Summer School.

VA: And then where did you go?

KM: I forgot to tell you that from Danvers I had gone to teach in Arlington. So I went to Fitchburg from Arlington. I taught there four years.

VA: In junior high?

KM: No, that was sixth grade. Fifth and sixth. One year fifth. The Locke School and the Russell School. The Locke School is now a condominium, the Locke School Condominium. It's still there. The Russell School is gone. Gone to is the Hotel Beaconsfield, where I was captain of the dining room during summer vacations

from school teaching. Another "vacation" was being hostess at several Schraft's restaurants in Boston.

VA: After Fitchburg, after you got the two years of normal school training--

KM: I came down here then to the Cape.

VA: Because you got married or to teach or what?

KM: I got married. I graduated from Fitchburg Normal in 1931, in June, and I got married in July 1931.

VA: Where and when did you meet Maurice?

KM: I met Maurice in Cambridge. He had a sister in Cambridge. Bernice.

VA: Was she your friend first?

KM: Yes. Through the Prospect Street Church.

VA: Was this the Methodist?

KM: No, it's a Prospect Street Congregationalist Church. A souvenir plate tells me that the large cathedral windowed church was built in 1851 at a total cost of \$28,584.05. The old

brick edifice is still the church home for many Cambridge people.

VA: Now where were you married?

KM: We were married in South Berwick, Maine. In those days married teachers weren't desired so much. The school committees and the superintendents felt that married teacher, married women, weren't the best. So I taught over in Brewster, the first year, as Miss Beaton, my maiden name.

VA: You mean they didn't know in Brewster that you were married?

KM: The superintendent knew.

VA: Had you been to Cape Cod before you moved down here when you were married?

KM: I had been to Provincetown on the boat from Boston and I had come down over the road with a friend, who was an employee of the Locomobile Company, and he brought me down through the Cape. The first time I'd been over the road. I remember particularly Brewster, the big house, you know, the Nickerson estate, and I thought Brewster was so attractive. When I got down here to live I started substitute teaching and did a lot of substituting. All the Lower Cape towns. I've been in all of them this side of Truro. Never been to Truro or Provincetown to substitute, but all the old union. The old union used to be Chatham, Harwich and Orleans

and Eastham. Chatham and Harwich were released from the School Union a few years ago and Wellfleet and Brewster were added, forming a new school union, the present one.

VA: What was your impression of Eastham when you moved down here?

KM: I found it friendly. And I had my children right away and was quite busy with them. When arrangements could be made I went with my husband, Maurice Moore, to the town meetings, which, in those earlier days, were held in the daytime. A light luncheon would be served at noon by the Heart Fund or the United Fund Committee.

VA: Did you teach while you were having the children?

KM: Yes. Oh, yes. I started substituting when Kate was over here in the first grade. By this time I had been elected to the School Committee, on which I served for twelve years. There was a conflict of interest there, but substitutes were scarce and Mr. Hoyt, the superintendent, saw that sometimes it was necessary.

VA: Tell me about the children. The first one is Kate?

KM: Yes. Kate and her brother George both graduated from Orleans High School, which is now the Nauset Regional High School, located in Eastham. They were members of the orchestra

and basketball teams.

The Orleans high school building from which Kate and George graduated is now the Nauset Middle School building. It was rather new then and there have been many additions. The original highschool from which my husband, Maurice, graduated is now the Odd Fellows Hall in Orleans.

After graduation from high school Kate attended and graduated from the Fisher Business College in Boston. George joined the Navy, which took him eventually to Mediterranean ports. His Navy service was in the Korean War.

VA: Where is she?

KM: She is in Wisconsin now. She'll be home next month.

VA: I take it she's married?

KM: She's married.

VA: And who else? How many other children?

KM: George. George is in Pocasset. Each of them has no married spouses at the present time. I have six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

VA: I notice you made some notes. Do you want to talk about that?

KM: I told you about my living in Cambridge during World War I, and, of course, when I came down here in 1931 it was the Depression.

VA: How did that affect people, do you know?

KM: Didn't hear much about it. Not as much as you hear about homelessness and poverty now. Just didn't hear about it. You knew there was a war going on and of course I helped in the breach. I did volunteer fto serve when we had the tokens. You remember that? Where were you then?

VA: Minnesota.

KM: The rationing. And people would come in and resent being asked how much they were worth, if they had their own house, how big was their house when they came for gasoline rationing, and how far was it from the gasoline tanks? But most people were cooperative.

That was for the gasoline rationing. There was rationing for sugar and for meat. That is when the volunteer rationing questioner had to ask how many children in the family, what the sugar would be used for, etc. No tokens allowed for making the famous beach plum jelly. A little cheating perhaps. As for meat scarcity, Charles [Buddy] Chase started raising chickens and sold them at a stand near his restaurant.

VA: You were on the rationing board?

KM: No, I was never on the board. Isabelle Brackett was chairman of the board in this town. But, no, I was never on the board, but they had to have people come and make out the slips and consult the people that came in.

VA: We've learned an awful lot through these interviews, that people down here didn't realize there was a Depression, because they'd always lived that way.

KM: Well, that's true. This store down here at the corner-- you know, Brackett's Store, at the corner-- Maurice tells that people would go through the winter and Mr. Brackett would trust them, and then in the summer there'd be some crops. Probably no tourists way back then, but anyway they'd pick up money in the spring, pay their bills, go through the summer, another winter coming along.

VA: It was just a different way of life.

KM: That's right.

VA: You weren't down here then?

KM: I wasn't then. I was up in Cambridge. But during the

Depression I was here.

VA: The men weren't out of work, they just were still doing the kind of thing that they'd always done, they were farming?

KM: That's right. There was farming. Maurice's father was a house painter. He and Mr. Knowles had the Moore & Knowles Paint Shop up in Orleans. In earlier years Grandpa Moore had kept a cow and a pig and hens and chickens. The Moore house is on Locust Road, but had been moved from another area in town. Many of the older houses have been moved from their original sites.

VA: I wonder sometimes how the youngsters would get along today if they were hit with a Depression. I think it would be a little bit grim. I remember going through it and, you know, just tightening your belt, and if you had a baked potato for supper, that was great.

KM: That's right. Money was scarce, but if you had to buy food products at one of the small stores, the prices were very low; a few cents a pound for sugar, a nickel for a loaf of bread.

VA: It's a whole new ball game now.

KM: Then, of course, I worked besides substituting. Very early in my children's life I started working at hotels and restaurants. I worked at the Howard Johnson's, the Old Southwood

Inn.

VA: What did you do?

KM: At the Howard Johnson's I was hostess. As the Southward Inn I waited on tables and occasionally worked in the office.

VA: Is that the Howard Johnson's that had the first franchise in the United States?

KM: Yes. The Howard Johnson's in Orleans was the first Howard Johnson's to serve full meals. The firm had started years before in Wollaston, Mass., but had served only ice cream.

VA: Was Bud Fisher manager then?

KM: I didn't know he was manager.

VA: Reta Cummings and Don Sparrow, that whole bunch used to work there.

KM: They came later.

VA: You were there in-- what, the thirties?

KM: Well, my daughter was born in '32, so I think it was-- yes, the late thirties.

VA: What else have you got down there?

KM: My experience in restaurant work was picked up from when I lived in Cambridge and in Boston. I worked at the Belleview Hotel and the Beaconsfield Hotel, which is still standing. I think, however, it has been renovated into apartments.

VA: You had a lot of different experiences.

KM: I really did.

VA: How did you get into the writing bit? You know, the columns. [For the Cape Codder]

KM: Well, I always wanted to write. I was very fascinated with newspapers, and as I'd go through Boston, in those days they used to have big signs around in the newspaper office windows, announcing the news, and people would be looking at them. And then I'd go by an alley-- I forget the name of the alley there-- it was right in the Boston Herald's area, and men would be out there with their paper caps, getting a little breath of air, and you'd see the huge rolls going inside.

So when the Cape Codder started-- and I was fascinated by that-- when the Cape Codder started, I wrote to them and told them I was interested. So they started me. I started writing for them in 1947.

[TELEPHONE INTERRUPTION]

VA: We're talking about how you got hooked up with the Cape Codder to write the column. You were supposed to write the Eastham news and you did that, right? Was that a good experience? Did you like that?

KM: Very much.

VA: How did you manage it? How did you get the news?

KM: People called in. Early in the spring someone would have a crocus up and they'd call me. And I'd write a little-- I don't know that I'd write about crocuses, but sometimes what they told me would suggest a little story. I'll look up some columns and see what I've got.

VA: I sure would like to have them. We could make copies of them.

KM: To give you an idea of what I did.

VA: That's very much part of Eastham history.

KM: When people died I'd try to write something different about them. I'd probably know what they'd done. Maybe someone

was a good canner. I remember one woman I wrote about, Mrs. Escobar, when she died. I said when the rest of us were out swimming, running around, she'd be home canning for her family. Little things like that. And a great many people have told me that they liked the column. Some people that have moved away liked to hear of the small Eastham doings.

VA: It's the personal touches too in a newspaper. People like to see their name in print, I think. How long did you do the column?

KM: I didn't stop until after Maurice died. In '83.

VA: And they haven't been doing it since?

KM: No. They have given up the personal items in all the town columns.

VA: What else were you involved in in town then?

KM: I was on the School Committee twelve years, ending in 1950. So it must have been from '38 to '50. Yes, just as Kate left the school.

VA: And what did that involve, what kind of work?

KM: You go to the meetings and listen to what the Superintendent

was planning and approved it or disapproved it. Very seldom we disapproved of anything, but that was all right, because we had good Superintendents. But if we were changing a textbook-- the Superintendent might tell us to change a textbook, he'd think the kids needed a different thing. We'd look it over. We'd go largely by his advice, but still we'd know.

I remember one time we had a math discussion. This was when my son George was in school. As an example, there was a recommendation to have a new system of mathematics and it was done with not books, but workbooks, and a pupil had to go so far in order to go to the next page. In other words, he could never go on until he had made his correction. In that situation many students got very far behind. That didn't last very long. Things like that. A great upheaval that didn't last long.

VA: Did you have to go to Town Meeting to get the budget approved then?

KM: Yes.

VA: Did you ever have any problems?

KM: Not very many. I remember at Town Meeting we, the School Committee, had to express ourselves quite firmly to raise the money for a cement floor in the basement.

[TAPE RECORDER TURNED OFF]

VA: We're talking about the Town Meetings.

KM: The people go up now and the night of Town Meeting pick up the Warrant at the meeting and vote it. They have no chance to study it. I realize that the town's lots bigger, but they couldn't-- but the printed figures had to be formalized in a couple of pages for the Finance Committee to approve the budget. We don't approve the budget.

VA: Maurice was known sort of as the watchdog of the finances and when we first came he used to get up in Town Meeting and question an awful lot of these bills. Do you want to talk about that a little bit? Where was he coming from? Was he brought up to be thrifty or what was the story?

KM: Well, yes, he was brought up to be thrifty. Lived with his father and mother and they were thrifty. His mother may have been less thrifty than his father, but she was thrifty. But his father-- when I started going with Maurice, as I told you I was in the Credit Department of the Carter's Ink. So I looked up Maurice's father's rating in Dun & Bradstreet, and you know, I suppose Mr. Moore, Maurice's father-- I suppose his expenditures were very slight, just a few cans of paint a month or something. But you know in Dun & Bradstreet he had an A-1 rating. Now if he only spent twenty dollars and paid it on time, he got an A-1 rating.

VA: Well, Maurice had good training then at home?

KM: Yes.

VA: Also he was Selectman too?

KM: Yes, he became Selectman. When Maurice passed on, we had a nice letter from the town, and of course they acknowledged that he didn't always agree with them, but they also acknowledged that he was sincere in trying to do what was best for Eastham.

VA: But there has to be a watchdog in a town, it seems to me, somebody to pull the plug, as it were, and I can't think of anybody right now who does that. We sit in many Town Meetings and everything's passed.

KM: Everything.

VA: And nobody questions it any more. I wonder if Maurice is up there looking down.

KM: I wonder. I was talking with Wilma the other day, Wilma Nickerson. Not necessarily about Town Meeting, but I just said I wondered what was going on up there and how much they knew. No one wants to talk about it.

VA: What, an after-life?

KM: Yes.

VA: I think they're afraid to, don't you? But we'll all find out eventually.

Tell me what else you've got down there. You've made quite a few notes.

KM: Well, of course you've got big storms here. We got the 1938 one quite badly. That was Kate's first year at school, the first grade, and I decided that we'd go for a walk every day after school, after she was cooped up all day in school. You see, she'd been playing around and there was no kindergarten to break her in, so she had a long day and had to go just the same as the older kids, the eighth grade kids. So we were out walking the day of a high wind and we met a woman coming along. She had her hat on and she had her books under her arm and papers, and Kate said, "That's my teacher." A new teacher. I had helped to elect her, because I was on the School Committee. So I stopped and talked to her and I said, "How do you like the Cape?"

"Well," she said, "it's pretty windy, isn't it?"

And I said, "You'll get used to that. Yes, it's windy."

So I came home and all the lights were off and that was the 1938 hurricane. [Laughter]

VA: You didn't have any warning of it either, did you? Like they do now, they have warnings.

KM: No. No warning. No.

VA: Do you remember any stories about shipwrecks out here?

KM: Well, there was the QUEEN ANNE went down. I had a picture of my boy diving off the wreck, but I gave it to him. And then there was a big one off Wellfleet, a big tanker, in the last few years. Went aground. It wasn't a wreck, it just went aground.

VA: I know there was one where-- I've forgotten who told me, I think it was Otto Nickerson. It came aground over here and it was full of lathes, and everybody was down on that beach getting those lathes and the lathes were in every home on the Cape.

KM: I wrote a poem for the CAPE CODDER for that. It ended "Can you lend me a dime to buy a barrel" or something. It was about barrels.

VA: It was barrels, not lathes?

KM: I think it's the same one you mean.

VA: Then somebody else told me "about a ship full of blueberries

that washed ashore, and any of the men who picked up the blue-berries, if they had a favorite girl, they'd give her the blue-berries if she'd bake him a pie. Did you know anybody in the Coast Guard or anybody who walked the beach?

KM: Oh, yes. Maurice had a cousin. Yes, they were walking the beach when I came here. Yes, they were. I don't know just when they stopped walking the beach.

VA: What was the name of the cousin?

KM: Walker. Stanley Walker.

VA: Any relation to Howard [Walker]?

KM: Yes. His brother.

VA: Did you know many of the men in the Coast Guard?

KM: Maurice knew several. The later Coast Guard, Captain Keegan was the captain for a while down there at the station, and he lived right over there where the Park is now, in the bungalow.

VA: We covered in the last interview your reaction to the Park coming in and I don't think we need to do that. Do you have another note down there you want to cover?

KM: Well, Memorial Day. Memorial Day has remained almost like it was. The children going to school and having their memorial exercises. I remember I was substituting over there one day and they were getting ready to march down the day before Memorial Day to the cemetery and put lilacs around. By the way, lilacs are going to be nice Memorial Day this year. Very often they're gone, you know.

But anyway, I remember Della Macomber saying, "Well, when Otto retires, we won't have to walk down to the cemetery."

But they still keep at it. It was nice, you know. And the police in the front guarding. It's quite a thing for the children.

VA: Did Otto start that?

KM: No, I don't think so, because Esther used to tell that they did it.

VA: Back that far?

KM: Yes.

VA: Before Otto [Nickerson]?

KM: Yes. But he kept it up. But Della [Macomber]-- of course Della's gone, you know. She said, "When Otto resigns, we won't have to walk down."

VA: Then all the parents go too, I suppose, along with the children?

KM: No, they don't march. They stand by the side of the road and watch.

VA: That's a nice custom. I hope it keeps up. How about the Fourth of July?

KM: There's nothing particular here, since I've come. Everything goes to Orleans, you know. They make quite a lot of it. The parade. Of course my boy was in the Navy.

VA: During World War II?

KM: The Korean War.

VA: You've got some other notes. You want to follow through on those?

KM: Of course the farming. When I came it told in the Town Report how many horses in town and cows and sheep. That would be under the Assessor's report.

VA: There are a number of neat cattle. What are neat cattle?

KM: I don't know.

VA: This was 1947. That's recent.

KM: When I first came down here, the watering trough was down at that little corner.

VA: And the town pump was there too?

KM: And the town pump. And Abbott Knowles had a horse and every afternoon that horse would run down the road and have his drink and go back.

VA: Was Russell Chase's family running that Comfort Cottage when you first came down?

SIDE TWO

VA: The Comfort Cottage and people used to come from New York and all over?

KM: That's right.

VA: Were you around?

KM: No. Maurice was here. Russell's grandfather would drive over in a truck wagon and bring the people back. They'd come on

a train, you know.

VA: The train was still running when you came down, wasn't it?

KM: Yes.

VA: Mostly just for freight?

KM: No. No. There were a couple of trains a day when I came down and back, and I knew once or twice I knew trains were going, so I took the kids to the train. Maurice would be working in Brewster or maybe in Dennis, and I'd take the kids, go on the train and go where he was working and ride back with him.

VA: That must have been fun. Where did you catch the train, right down here where they had the station?

KM: Yes.

VA: They had one in North Eastham too, didn't they?

KM: Yes. Look at all the trains they had here. [Shows old schedule]

Of course this place that I'm on was all asparagus. And the man down at the corner, Russell Chase's father, used to carry asparagus up to Boston, to the Boston market. This was before my time, but it was cut right here.

VA: Who owned this asparagus out here?

KM: Mr. Perry. I guess, down at the corner.

VA: Where the Bennisons used to live?

KM: Yes. Perry was before my time. When I came here Mr. and Mrs. Oliver lived there.

VA: What else have you got here?

KM: The railroad came in 1850 to Eastham.

VA: Did politics play a role in your family?

KM: Well, yes. School Committee politics. But I've been interested in the town, and of course Maurice was Selectman. Yes, they played quite a part in our family. It made up quite a lot of our conversation. We thought alike. Except-- a woman comes here to help me on Wednesday. She'll be here tomorrow. And she said, "Everywhere I go I hear that they know you. I hear you didn't sit with your husband at Town Meeting." I said, "No, I didn't sit with him, because I was on the School Committee and I didn't always agree with him." We just thought we'd sit separate. Each say his own. When Maurice got a little bit deaf, I'd sit with him and see if I could help

him along. You can't very well help a deaf person, because while you're trying to help him, something else is going on.

VA: Did the political parties play a big role here?

KM: No. I don't think the parties-- they've always had the two parties. The Town Committees, the Democratic Town Committee and the Republican Town Committee. But I don't think in town politics they count so much.

VA: People don't run on party, I know. What else do you have?

KM: Well, I can't read some of it. [Laughter] This is about the Town Reports. Anything else is for future generations, to give them a look at what life here was like in our time. I have the Town Reports here. There ought to be something done, so that people would know more about what should be done in the town. But, of course, that takes a long time to get to people. Maurice was only a one-term Selectman, because he talked like that. He wanted to bring everything out and have more in the Town Report which would inform people.

I remember when Maurice died, the town sent me a picture of Maurice which the Cape Codder had sent back. The Selectmen said, "We're sending back the picture that appeared in the Town Report, because we know that Maurice didn't like pictures in the Town Report." Something like that. I've got the letter here if you want it. The reason they said that was because Maurice got

up at Town Meeting and spoke about having more figures and making people know what was going on and the figures of what was spent for different things. Someone said, "It takes room." And Maurice said right in Town Meeting, "You fill it full of important people sitting at their desks. We see them. We come in. We come into the Town Hall, we see them at their desks. We don't need a picture." There would be several pictures. But they gave that up.

Town meetings used to be in the daytime. They were more fun. And different women would get a lunch ready. Bessie Walter would superintend the lunches. A small lunch, so people didn't have to go home.

Earlier the Town Meetings were in the old Town Hall, which is now Chester Ranlett's house. That was the first Town Hall. Maurice went to school in that for one year, the time that they consolidated the schools. There used to be two school buildings of similar size and style, one of them in North Eastham, one of them in South Eastham, and this one. And when Maurice was getting ready for first grade, they were putting them all together, consolidating them.

VA: We've got pictures of the schoolhouse and it had the wings on each side.

KM: Yes. Those were the three. Many people don't know that.

VA: Otto talked about that. And Clayton Horton did the work, as

I remember?

KM: No. Alice Lowe in her History of Eastham stated that the date of consolidation was 1902. Maurice's father, Albert Moore, attended the school when it stood singly on its present site. His daughters, Esther and Berenice, and son Maurice attended the remodeled building.

VA: Clayton renovated the museum. When they started the museum, he renovated that.

Do you remember Henry Beston?

KM: I remember seeing him walk around when I first came. He lived over here, where Bessie Walters lived. Yes, I'd see him walking.

VA: Never met him?

KM: I met him later, when he was quite an old man. When they dedicated the statue of Marconi down at Wellfleet, I went down to that and I met him then.

VA: What was he like?

KM: Well, he was an old man then, but I guess he was quite a swagger during his writing years. I'd see him go by with his beret on and his knickers, in those years of the early

1920's. The Kelly's had the Overlook Inn then, and it was probably there that he wrote much of his famous book, The Outermost House.

VA: Did you ever meet his wife?

KM: No.

VA: Can you think of anything else you want to put on the tape?

KM: With Eastham on Old Cape Cod our home for so many years, it was fun to cross the bridge occasionally. As a first-class radio operator for the U.S. Merchant Marine, Maurice had been in all the continents except Asia and Antarctica. I had never been off continent. We drove four times to Central America, several visits to Canada, rode on mule back to the bottom of the Grand Canyon.

But we were always happy when we arrived at our home.

END OF SESSION